

Docket No. LSA18
US App. No. 10/575,046

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute Fig. 2 with the amended Fig. 2 shown in the enclosed replacement sheet.
A marked copy of the amended Fig. 2 is also enclosed to show the changes made.

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REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-6 were previously pending. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heilinger et al. (US 1,899,867) in view of Hanson et al. (US 1,070,003). The abstract and the drawings were objected to for informalities.

In the telephone communication between Examiner Choi and the undersigned on January 10, 2008, Examiner Choi indicated that claims 2 and 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and overcome the rejection under #5 USC 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended claims 1-6 and added new claims 7-8. The abstract and Fig. 2 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter adds through the amendments. For the reasons discussed below, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Abstract

Applicant has amended the abstract. The amended abstract contains less than 150 words. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Drawings

A replacement sheet for amended Fig. 2 is provided herewith. Also filed herewith is a marked copy of the amended Fig. 2 to show the changes made. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended claims 1-6. To address the Examiner's concern about claim 5, the "quarter circle shaped mechanism extends from one end of the housing" as recited in claim 5 corresponds to the shaft support 11.

It is believed the amendments made to the claims overcome the rejections.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heilinger et al. (US 1,899,867) in view of Hanson et al. (US 1,070,003).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to further distinguish over the cited references.

The amended claim 1 reads as:

1. A fruit/vegetable slicer for slicing food stuff, characterized in that it comprises:
 - a stand;
 - a rotational crank rotatably installed on the stand, wherein said rotational crank comprises an eccentric push rod and a handle;
 - a movable blade frame slidably installed on the stand, *wherein said movable blade frame has a plurality of blades and a reverse U-shaped fork, and the reverse U-shaped fork is operably engaged with the eccentric push rod of the rotational crank by constraining the eccentric push rod in a space defined by the reverse U-shaped fork so that, when the rotational crank rotates, the movable blade frame is reciprocatingly moved;*
 - a housing fixed on an upper portion of the stand, wherein the housing has a through hole for receiving the food stuff to be sliced; and
 - a food stuff pressing plate inserted in the through hole of the housing.

The cited references at least fail to teach or suggest the above emphasized features of claim

1.

The Office Action acknowledged that Heilinger does not teach the eccentric push rod and the handle, but cited Hanson to supply the missing elements. Hanson does teach that connecting rods 16, 16 in his bread cutter have eccentrics 17, 17. Lines 57-60, page 1. However, eccentrics 17 are quite different from the combination of a reverse U-shaped fork and an eccentric push rod recited in the amended claim 1. Therefore, Hanson cannot cure the deficiencies of Heilinger.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Heilinger and Hanson.

Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and, thus, is also patentable over Heilinger and Hanson for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2, and 4-6 also contain allowable subject matters.

New Claims

New claims 7-9 have been added.

Claim 7 substantially corresponds to original claim 2, claim 8 substantially corresponds to

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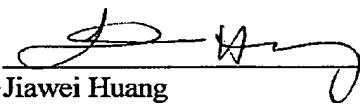
original claim 4, and claim 9 substantially corresponds to original claim 6, with minor modifications. Therefore, it is believed that new claims 7-9 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims 1-9 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted
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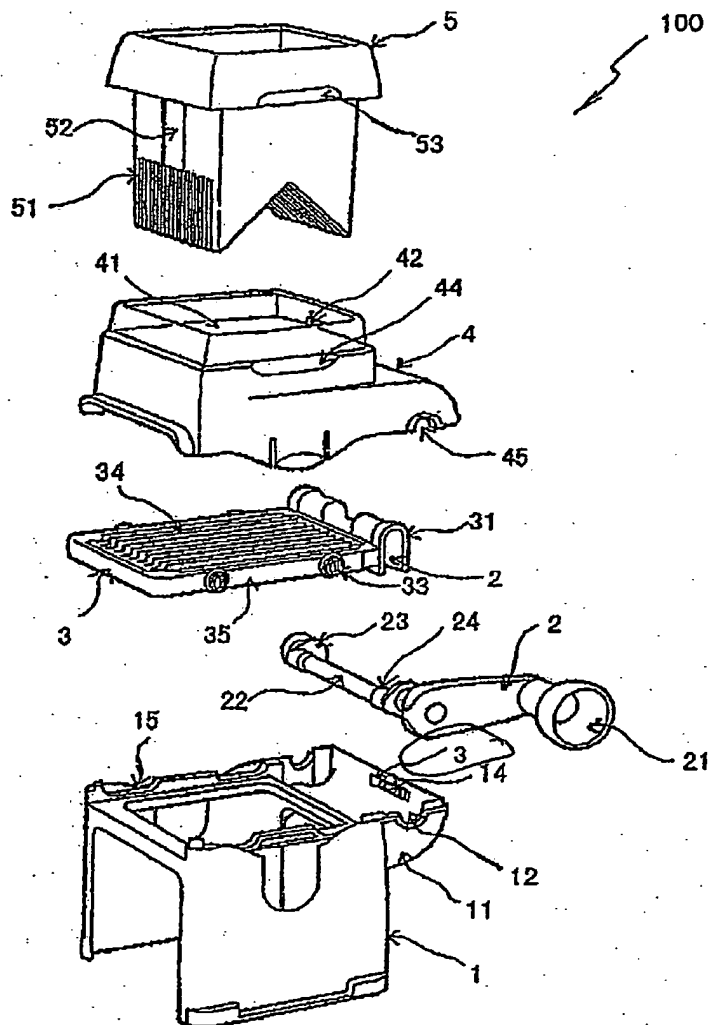


FIG. 2